

## Livermore Division Town Hall Meeting – June 27, 2003, Questions and Answers

Are stakeholders going to be told about LVD realignment proposal? Will veterans be able to comment to the Commission? *Yes, our stakeholders have been involved since the beginning of the CARES process. We will continue to have numerous forums to provide updates on the draft National CARES Plan and further opportunities for comment.*

Is the approval of the new CBOCs in the East Bay and the Valley contingent on the LVD realignment proposal as well? *Yes, the two large multi-specialty clinics are essential for the realignment of services at the Livermore Division to occur.*

The Under Secretary for Health proposed converting the Livermore Division from a 24-hour a day, 7 day-a-week operation to an eight-hour, 5 days-a-week operation. Why are all services proposed to be realigned? *The USH's request required the relocation of the NHCU and sub-acute beds from the Livermore Division. Maintaining the entire campus and structures to support the outpatient operations would not be cost effective.*

What will happen to the buildings at LVD? *If the realignment plan to relocate all services from the Livermore Division is approved, VAPAHCS would explore enhanced use leasing opportunities.*

The stated objective of CARES is moving care closer to veterans. Why move the nursing home to Menlo Park versus the Central Valley? *The proposal to move 80 beds to Menlo Park and to contract 40 beds in the community was proposed to strike a balance between providing access to care and the cost to operate additional VA NHCU beds.*

Won't this proposal create longer commuting distances for patients and staff? *For some veterans and staff, the commute may be shorter as they travel to the two proposed multi-specialty clinics. We are aware that some veterans may have to travel somewhat further to access specialty care at the proposed East Bay Clinic.*

Does this proposal mean that 8-hour operations would continue at the Livermore Division? *If the plan is accepted and approved as submitted by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, all operations at the Livermore Division will relocate in five to seven years.*

Are we coordinating with the Martinez or Mather sites at the NCHCS? *The VISN 21 Network CARES Plan was developed to include all facilities within our network*

*and to look at ways the network could work together to maximize services for veterans for the future.*

Do you think LVD is being offered up because of the property is considered a gold mine? *No, the objective of the CARES process is to shift VA resources to be more efficient in meeting the needs of veterans in the future.*

Will there still be transportation for veterans? *Yes, our transportation program is an integral part of our delivery of care for veterans and VAPAHCS will continue to offer that service.*

Will the new proposed clinic in the Valley offer specialty services? *The Valley CBOC may offer some specialty services such as podiatry, optometry, audiology and speech pathology.*

As the director, do you have a say in the final outcome? *The Secretary of Veterans Affairs will make the final decision. He welcomes all of our input as he makes the final decision.*

Where should we submit our comments? *Written comments can be provided to the Commission on their web site <http://www.carescommission.va.gov/>.*

A lot of construction is going on at the Livermore Division. Will the current construction plans continue? *Yes, we are committed on providing quality care in a safe environment. There are no plans to curtail any construction at the Livermore Division until the final recommendations on the CARES plan are received.*

Are we going to have a say when the Commission comes here? *The Commission Hearings will be formal hearings. Selected stakeholders will provide oral testimony. Comments can be made to the Commission through their web site or on comment cards that will be available at each of our divisions and clinic sites on the day of the hearing. Comments may be submitted to the CARES Commission website at any time.*

Livermore Division Town Hall Meeting – August 5, 2003, Questions and Answers

What is the estimated time line from when the appropriation is approved to begin design and construction on the new nursing home in Menlo Park proposed in the Livermore realignment? *If the Secretary of Veterans Affairs approves the draft National Cares plan, and Congress approves funding for the Building 324 replacement and expansion, the timeline for the realignment would be five to seven years from the time of the Congressional approval.*

Will a new nursing home be built in the Valley? *No, forty of our one hundred and twenty beds will be provided via contracts in the Valley and eighty beds will be provided at Menlo Park as part of the Building 324 replacement NHCU.*

Are constructions costs higher in Menlo Park than in Livermore? *Construction costs will not be substantially higher as the eighty beds being provided will be part of the Building 324 NHCU replacement project.*

Is the Menlo Park Division property large enough to build a new, larger nursing home? *Yes, there is sufficient land to build a 200 bed state-of-art Nursing Home Care Unit at the Menlo Park Division.*

If we (employees) move to the Valley, will our salaries be lower? *VAPAHCS employees at the Valley clinics generally do not receive locality pay. However, we do not have sufficient information to address the specific impacts on employees at this time. We will raise this concern to the National Cares Planning Office.*

Would a veteran have a choice between a VA nursing home bed in Menlo Park and a contracted nursing home bed in the community? *Yes, the Co-Directors of Extended and Long Tern Care will work with the veterans and their families on the best location for the veteran.*

What happens when a veteran in the Stockton area needs to be hospitalized? *If a veteran is hospitalized in the local community, we will attempt to transfer the veteran to the VAPAHCS Palo Alto Division or to another site within VISN 21.*

Has anyone surveyed the availability of nursing home beds in the community? *Yes, The Co- Directors of Extended and Long Term Care are very aware to the bed availability in the valley. That is why the number of beds proposed to be provided in the community is half the number proposed to be VA operated.*

What would happen to the sub-acute services currently provided at Livermore? *The sub-acute beds will be transferred to the Palo Alto Division.*

Will the shuttle service continue between divisions? Yes, *VAPAHCS intends to continue to provide shuttle services between its divisions and clinics.*